DARK HORSE COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS
13
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DARK HORSE
COMICS™
ALIENS: BACKSPLASH
WOODRING · PLUNKETT
PREDATOR: BAD BLOOD
DORKIN · THOMPSON · PARKS
THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH
MARTIN · NAIFEH · BAUMANN

DARK HORSE #13 COMICS™

ALIENS: BACKSPLASH 1

PART 2 OF 2
SCRIPT: JIM WOODRING
ART: KILIAN PLUNKETT
LETTERER: ELLIE De VILLE
COLORS: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH
STORY EDITOR: RYDER WINDHAM

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH 9

PART 1 OF 4
SCRIPT: EDWARD MARTIN III
PENCILS: TED NAIFEH
INKS: W. "MOOSE" BAUMANN
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORS: RAY MURTAUGH

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PREDATOR: BAD BLOOD 19

PART 2 OF 3
SCRIPT: EVAN DORKIN
PENCILS: DEREK THOMPSON
INKS: ANDE PARKS
LETTERER: PAT BROSSEAU
COLORS: ROBBIE BUSCH
STORY EDITOR: CHRIS WARNER

COVER ARTIST: KILIAN PLUNKETT
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Printed in Canada

ALIENS
BACKSPLASH - PART 2
HISSSSSSSK
CHOUGHSK!
ZZZZZT... ATTVIO3, COME IN! ATT ZZT V ZT O3, COME IN! WHA ZZZZZZZZZZZZT ZZT OING ON IN THERE? OV ZZZZT!
TUNCK
HURN!
CHUSK
SSSSSSK!
ULLLNNN...
ATTVIO3, WHAT ZZZZZT -OING ON? COME IN ATTVIO3! OVER!
WE'RE COMPLETELY SCREWED! THE CAR IS DESTROYED, EVERYONE'S DEAD, THERE ARE ALIENS EVERYWHERE! GET US OUT OF HERE!
HKIIIEEEEENK
GRENADE RIGHT, CRESPI!
DO YOU HAVE A CODE RED, REPEAT, CODE RED? OVER?
CHEEEK
CODE RED!? YES, I'D SAY SO, GOD FRIGGIN' DAMN IT!

ATTVIO3, WE MAY NOT COMPROMISE SHIP SAFETY IN RESPONSE TO CODE RED. SORRY. CAN YOU GET OUT INTO THE OPEN?
NO, WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
CRESPI!
OOF!
GET DOWN!
WHOOOM!

COME ON!
GOD, IT'S DAYLIGHT!
WATCH YOUR HEAD!
SCRUNCH!
CHUNCH!

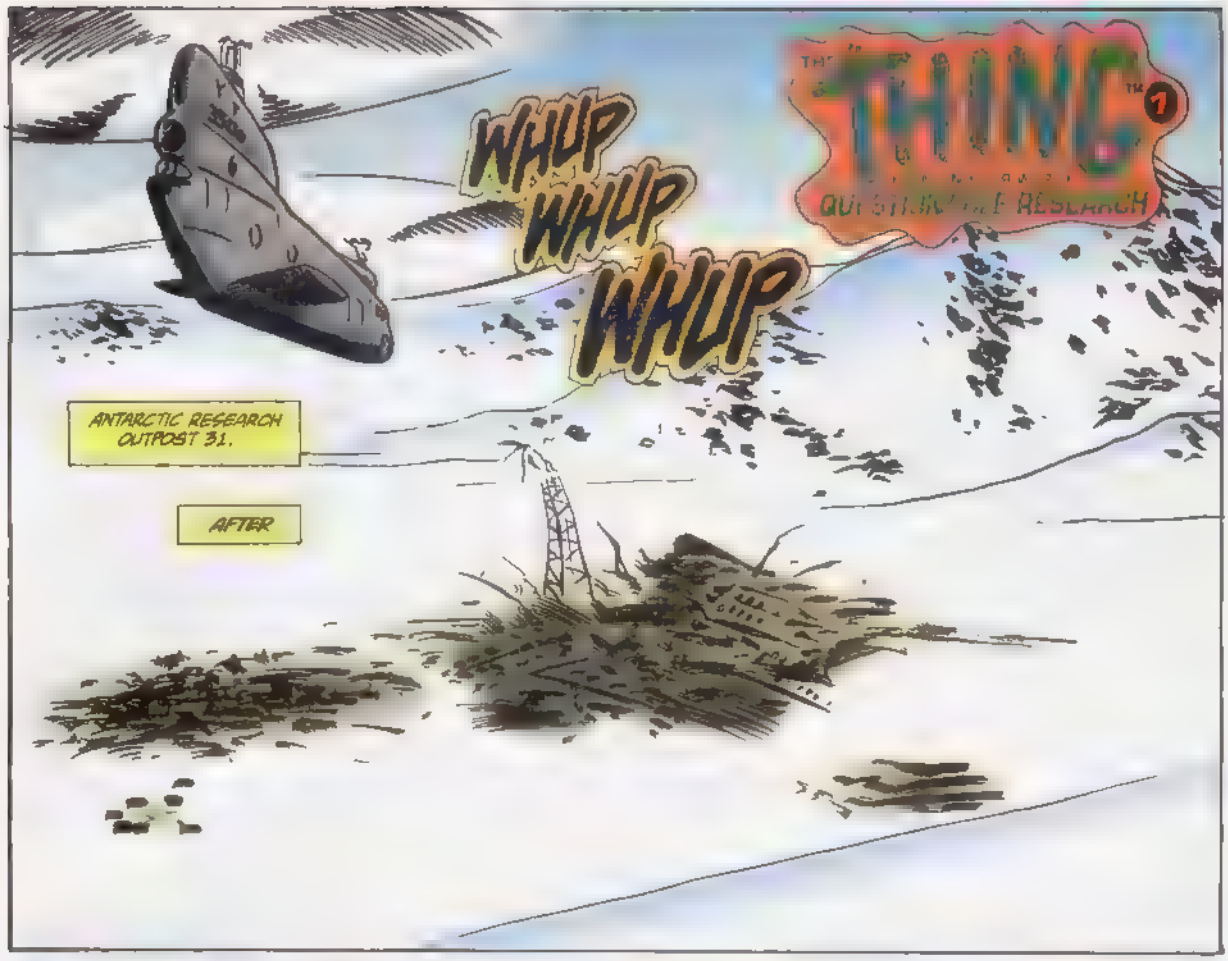
THE SHIP! COME ON, WE CAN MAKE IT!
WHY DON'T THEY BRING IT CLOSER TO US?
YOU KNOW THEY CAN'T! HURRY, CRESPI!
I'M TRYING, DAMMIT!
YAAAAH! GOD NO!
HSSSSK!

SSSSSSSK
NUH...
HURRRRRRSK!
GHACK
GOD ALMIGHTY!
SLISH CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK
UNNNNNNNNNN...!

BRRAAPPP
SPLOTCH
SPLOTCH
SPLOTCH
NNEEENCH!
GAH!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
WE'VE GOT TO GET IN THE CLEAR. THEY WON'T OPEN THE LOCK FOR US IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF ALIENS GETTING ON BOARD.

AAAAAAAAAAAH!
GIBBS!
NO!
SCRUNCHCHCK
SPLURCH!
SCURINGHERUNTINCH

HURRRSSSSSSK!
CHANK!
SPLUNG
GNG!


THE THING 7
WHUP WHUP WHUP
ANTARCTIC RESEARCH OUTPOST 31.
AFTER

YOU AND ARLENE SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT IN THE BUILDINGS. FILES, PHOTOS, ANY KIND OF RECORD OF WHAT HAPPENED HERE. THE REST OF YOU COME WITH ME.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

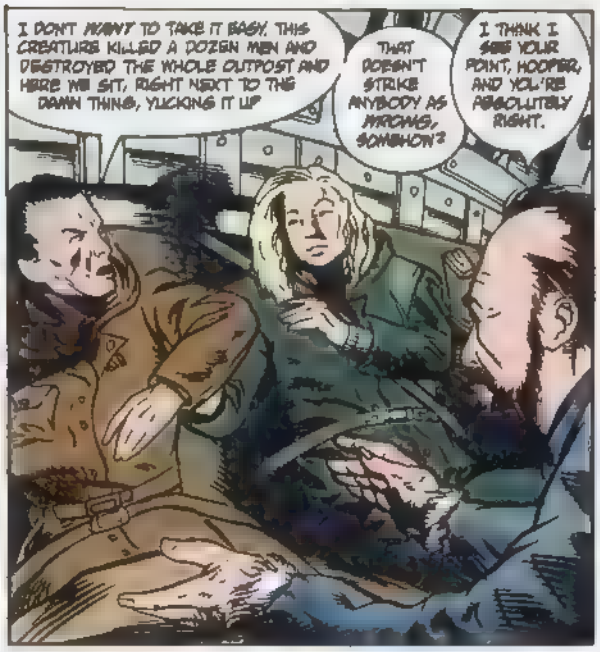
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HUNT DOWN SPECIMENS

ARE WE SURE WE KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR?
YES. .
. ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.
SWEET JESUS..

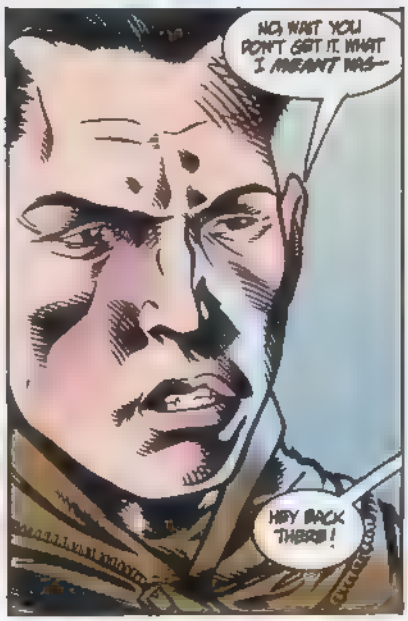
KRAK
DAMMIT, HOOPER, BE CAREFUL!
SORRY, I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE THIS BIG.
JUST BE THANKFUL IT'S ONLY THIS BIG. ANY BIGGER, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO LEAVE PART OF IT BEHIND
I'M NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SIZE. IT'S THE WHOLE CONCEPT THAT CREEPS ME OUT.
WELL, DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU. ONCE WE GET THIS THING TO THE ROVACHEK, IT'LL BE HARMLESS. ALL WE NEED NOW IS FOR BARBARA AND ARLENE TO STOP TAKING ALL DAY
HEY, WHO'S USING OUR NAMES IN VAIN?
IT'S ABOUT TIME! LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
NO PROBLEM, KIDS. STRAP YOURSELVES IN AND KISS THIS SNOW GOOD-BYE!
NEXT STOP EL ROVACHEK-O!

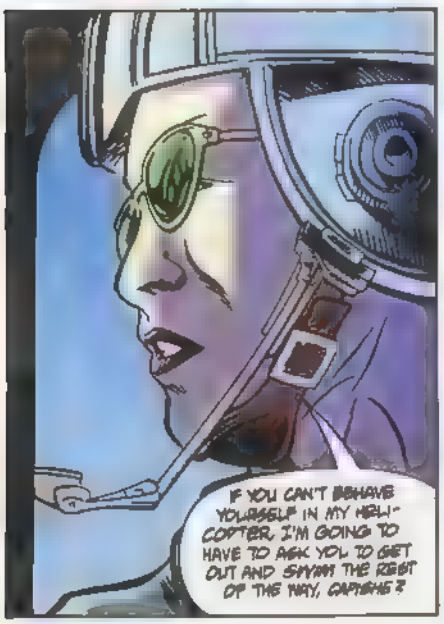
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT LUCKY!
THAT WE DID, MY DEAR. THAT WE DID. HOW WAS YOUR ADVENTURE?
SPOOKY BUT FRUITFUL. ONE OF THE MEN THERE MADE EXTENSIVE NOTES, VIDEOTAPES, AND EVEN...
THESE!
AND WHAT ARE THOSE?
NEAR AS WE CAN FIGURE, A SIMULATOR MODULE. IF HIS NOTES ARE ANY INDICATION, HE RAN SEVERAL TESTS, INCLUDING INFECTION SIMULATIONS, ALL NEATLY BACKED UP BEFORE HE WAS KILLED
JESUS...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. ANOTHER FELLOW KEPT HIS OWN AUDIO LOG. WE FOUND THIS IN A DESK DRAWER.
REALLY? THIS IS A LOT MORE THAN I EXPECTED
IT GOES RIGHT UP TO THE BIG DAY, TOO. I'LL BET I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR IT. SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

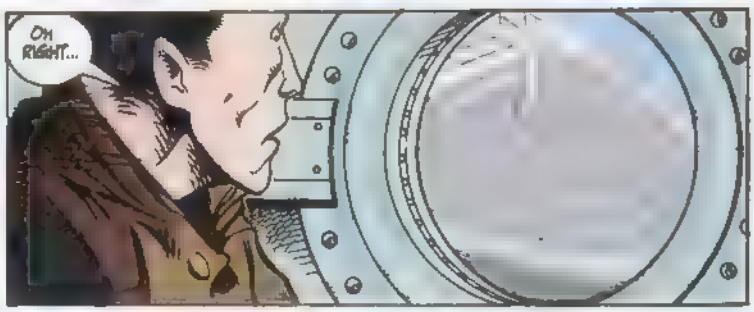
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT .../T... LIKE THIS!
LIKE WHAT, HOOPER?
LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF CUTSIE CRITTER. AND THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT THOSE MEN. I MEAN, THEY'RE DEAD FOR GOD'S SAKE. CAN'T WE AT LEAST SHOW THEM A LITTLE RESPECT?
TAKE IT EASY.

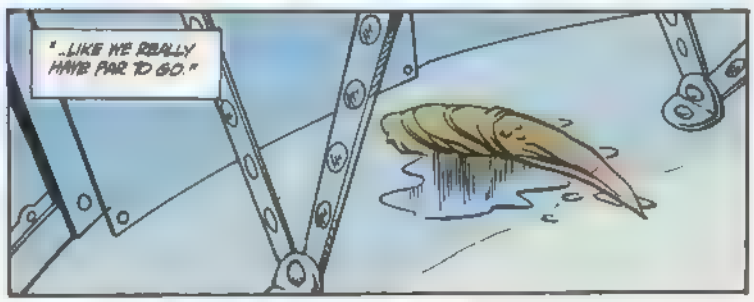

I DON'T MEAN TO TAKE IT EASY. THIS CREATURE KILLED A DOZEN MEN AND DESTROYED THE WHOLE OUTPOST AND HERE WE SIT, RIGHT NEXT TO THE DAMN THING, YUCKING IT UP
THAT DOESN'T STRIKE ANYBODY AS WRONG, SOMEHOW?
I THINK I SEE YOUR POINT, HOOPER, AND YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

THIS CREATURE ISN'T JUST A VICIOUS KILLER, BUT PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUS LIFEFORM ON THE PLANET WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL..


NO, WAIT YOU DON'T GET IT. WHAT I MEANT WAS—
HEY BACK THERE!


IF YOU CAN'T BEHAVE YOURSELF IN MY NEW COPTER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO GET OUT AND SWIM THE REST OF THE WAY, CAPISHE?


OH RIGHT...


"..LIKE WE REALLY HAVE FAR TO GO."

DOES MARION HAVE THE TANK READY?
YEAH. YOU NEED A HAND OR SOMETHING?
YOU COULD SAY THAT
I'LL BE DIPPED!
1015
HI, MARION. YOU READY FOR US?
I'M ALWAYS READY FOR YOU, DOUGLAS.
WHUMP
GOT NITROGEN IN THERE AND SEAL THAT SUCKER STAT! WE'LL START THE SAMPLING AS SOON AS WE CHANGE OUT OF OUR SHOWIES.

MARION BOTHERS ME. WHY DID YOU BRING HER?
SHE NEEDS THE FIELD EXPERIENCE.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF EXPERIENCE SHE WANTS AND YOU KNOW IT.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, BARBARA! SHE'S NOT EXACTLY THROWING HERSELF AT ME!
AT LEAST NOT WHEN I'M AROUND.
YOU KNOW, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND, WE'RE STILL MARRIED.
AS LONG AS SHE REALIZES THAT.
FET
HISS
SKREEE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? GO ON.
BUZZ OFF!
SCREEE
EELUR RGGH
TO BE CONTINUED...

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Hi there, and welcome to another issue of **Dark Horse Comics***! In an effort to prevent everyone from becoming too fat and lazy around here, we've decided to shake things up and give* **DHC** *a facelift (and a new letters column name). The stunning new look is either the result of designer Scott Tice's hard work and dedication, or the result of him having way too much free time on his hands. We'll let you know once we figure it out.*

Before we get into this month's letters, I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to write, and to remind everybody that as of this issue, I start giving away a prize to the reader who writes what I consider to be the best letter each month. Time to drag that old Royal out from the bottom of the closet and to start hunting and pecking!

Dear Dark Horsemen,

I've just put aside ***Dark Horse Comics*** #8 and would like to make a few comments on the issue, so without further delay...

First of all, I'm not sure I like the idea of one of your *Comics' Greatest World* characters, namely X, being debuted in the pages of ***DHC***. I can understand why this is being done, but perhaps rather than using ***DHC*** to set up the *X* issue of Arcadia, it might have been wiser to publish the previews of the superhero imprint as full-length comics rather than as scaled down dollar comics. Sure, the dollar price will be attractive to many people, but the *CGW* previews would probably sell just as well at regular price. Besides, the price will go up when the regular issues hit the stands in October anyway, so if the one-dollar price is meant as a hook, which I'm sure it is, you'll have a number of disgruntled readers when they see the higher price on the regular issues. Come to think of it, the debut here in ***DHC*** is a hook as well, since the third chapter will end in a cliffhanger that will be resolved in the *X* issue of Arcadia. Brainy little marketers, aren't you? But of course I understand the economics of it all as well; you're trying to sell as many of these comics as possible in a dog-eat-dog world, which Mighty Marvel rules by flooding the market with rivers of garbage, making your job, and the jobs of other small and independent publishers, that much more difficult. All the same, I would have rather seen the *CGW* line debut as regular-sized comics, or perhaps in a limited-run anthology all its own. Instead of 16 weekly issues, why not four monthly issues in anthology form? But I guess it all comes back to economics, eh?

That said, I couldn't help being impressed with the first chapter of *X*. It may have been short, but there was a lot of story packed into those pages and I'm eager to read more. The artwork isn't half bad either, but who will pencil the regular series? I'm looking forward to Chris Warner's issues of the *CGW* preview, but I wish he'd get back into pencilling and/or writing on a regular basis again. By the way, ***The CGW Sourcebook*** distributed with *Advance Comics* was a real treat. Some of these characters look very promising.

Now, as for the other stories in the issue, I'm sorry to say that I didn't care much for them. I've never liked comics based on movie or television characters because, with rare exception, the four-color version is never able to measure up to the screen version. I've spoken about this before and I will reiterate here — PLEASE SCALE BACK YOUR USE OF LICENSED CHARACTERS IN ***DHC***!!! I realize that there is a market for RoboCop et al., but that market could easily be served by miniseries and specials, without the rest of us having to buy comics featuring the characters as well. If you must use licensed properties in ***DHC***, then limit them to one story per issue; so far, they have garnered the lion's share of pages in this series.

Finally, I'd like to second Carl Pietrantonio's suggestion that you mix ***DHC*** up a bit. It has been almost totally SF adventure so far (not surprising, given the characters featured), but too much of one thing gets boring after so long. I think a regular two-page humor strip would be a good addition, but you could also consider running some fantasy serials, and perhaps some mysteries as well. Heck, I'd even be open to a good western series if it were handled by the right creative team; just about anything that will give the title some variety. What do you think has kept me with ***Dark Horse Presents*** and ***Cheval Noir*** for so long? Give it some thought, anyway.

Sincerely,

Stan Johnston
Box 842
Yazoo City, MS 39194

I've said it before, but I'll keep repeating it until everyone has heard it: The edict handed down for **Dark Horse Comics** *was (and is) to have a showcase for the characters and series a) which Dark Horse owns, and b) which Dark Horse licenses from other sources. Unless there's a specific tie-in with a creator-owned character (such as the Renegade story in* **DHC** *#1 and the current miniseries* **Aliens/Predator: The Deadliest of the Species***), those are the two types of stories you'll see in* **DHC***. Again, that leaves room for a variety of material, and we'll try to keep a viable mix in each issue.*

As for the one-dollar, 16-page debut issues for Comics' Greatest World*, we appreciate your feedback, Stan. (Heck, we'd love to hear from everyone who has an opinion on those books!) However, judging from what we've heard from distributors, retailers, and comics fans, the low-priced, weekly format has been exactly the thing that has attracted consumers (the fact that readers are also enjoying the books hasn't hurt either). We knew that launching a line of superhero books this summer (of all summers) would be tough—the competition for those particular readers has never been fiercer—and we thought long and hard about what we could do to entice readers to give our* CGW *books a try. We thought (briefly) about cover enhancements,*

poster inserts, bagging trading cards with the comics, and a variety of other "premiums," but we finally decided that the best thing we could offer our customers would be value: a good story at a bargain price. We wanted to find a way to introduce readers to the characters and settings we'd created in a way that would not only make a big splash in the marketplace, but be affordable for everyone. Like I said, judging from the market reports we've received, giving readers two hundred twenty-four pages of story for sixteen dollars turned out to be the right decision.

"DHC #9 was darned good."

Dear Dark Horsians,

DHC #9 was darned good. Even though I am not a ***Star Wars*** fan by any extent of the imagination, I liked the ***Tales of the Jedi*** story that concluded in this issue.

"Who is X?" was very interesting, and I will definitely be buying the series about X when it comes out later this year in *Comics' Greatest World*. Terrific art and a story that doesn't seem to let up.

James Bond... Well, I never was a James Bond fan, but this is interesting in a rather detached way I read it and am entertained, but five minutes later, I really couldn't tell you what happened. It fades that fast. But that is me, and because I am not that interested in James Bond. I am sure that there is a very good chance that the next feature to run in this spot may be something I cannot live without, so one story that I don't care for that much doesn't mean I won't buy the comic. This is the best thing about anthologies, I think.

RoboCop had a satisfying, if predictable, conclusion. I knew the Rizzos would be defeated, and that Murphy would not be dismembered or anything, so it was a pretty foregone conclusion. Good story though anyway.

All in all, this is still one of the best anthologies on the market, and I will be back for more!

Until next time .

Carl Pietrantonio
517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

Hmm. "Good, but forgettable," isn't exactly the kind of response we're aiming for, Carl. But I'm not one to throw my hands up in despair (well, not yet, anyway). Edward and I are just going to try harder to find the kind of stories by the kind of talent that will get you excited. Keep us posted on our progress, okay?

Dear Bob and Dan,

***James Bond 007*: "Light of my Death,"** part 2: Now I'm really confused. After reading part 1, it was obvious that this Bond tale didn't take place in the '90s. Fine. After reading part 2, I figure this story takes place either in the late '50s or early '60s (if I knew what year Theodore Maiman invented the laser, I could really nail it down). The next question that part 2 brings up is... What continuity are Das and John following? It's either book continuity, film continuity, or both (the way Grell did it in "Permission to Die"). This would explain Bond tooling around in an Aston Martin DB5 even though he hasn't come across a laser in person yet. And what's with Tatiana? She's changed a lot since last we saw her. She never had a birthmark/beauty mark/mole before (unless she had one in the book version of *From Russia With Love*), and she's acting a lot like Natasha Romanov instead of Tatiana Romanova.

Delmo (the Saint) Walters, Jr.
1831 White Plains Road, #1B
Bronx, NY 10462

Actress Daniela Bianchi did not *have a beauty mark in the film* From Russia With Love*—besides which, she was blonde. Whether the character Tatiana Romanova was described as having one in the book, I can no longer remember. That's one of the drawbacks of old age, I guess. However, since the book and movie continuities seem to be crisscrossing with one another, I think it's safe to say that we're dealing with a totally separate. .* comic-book continuity*! Makes your head spin, don't it, Delmo? Do you still drive a P1800 in the '90s?*

"Go, go, Godzilla!!"

Dear Editor:

In order of preference:

X: I can't wait until the *Comics' Greatest World* series begins. X was gritty and exciting, and best of all, after three installments, we still don't know who X is or what he is really after. I hope that the regular series keeps this mystery going. I for one don't want to know who X is under the mask, at least not right away. The art by N. Steven Harris and Dan Davis was excellent!!

Godzilla: Go, go, Godzilla!! My favorite monster is back!! I can't believe you are only giving him two parts, when are we going to get another Godzilla miniseries or maybe a new 5-part story in ***DHC***? Bobby Rubio is a new name to me, but his work is fantastic. Will we be seeing more soon?

James Bond: After a super start, this story has stalled. I'm not really sure what's going on within this installment. The art by John Watkiss was fine, but his cover was HORRIBLE!!

Predator: Maybe I'm still suffering from Predator burnout, but I didn't find this tale too interesting. If the Predator is just going to go around killing people, you need something more than just a different place and time to make it interesting. On the other hand, the art by Enrique Alcatena was the best part of this issue. I'd love to see him do an Indiana Jones story.

Finally, as to what I'd like to see in future issues of ***DHC***: more monster stories like ***Godzilla***, more Indiana Jones stories, no more ***Aliens*** or ***Predator***, and much more ***RoboCop*** and ***Time Cop***.

Thanks for listening

Sincerely,
Kevin W. Hall
5437-F Bradley Pines Circle
Sandston, VA 23150

We're always here to listen to anything our readers have to say, Kevin. And, since you took the time to tell us what you liked and disliked about **DHC** *#10, and also made suggestions on what you'd like to see in future issues, I've picked you as this month's completely arbitrary, completely at-my-whim, winner of the favorite letter award. Your prize is a copy of* **CGW: Arcadia** *#1:* **X**, *autographed by Jerry Prosser and Chris Warner. Congratulations!*

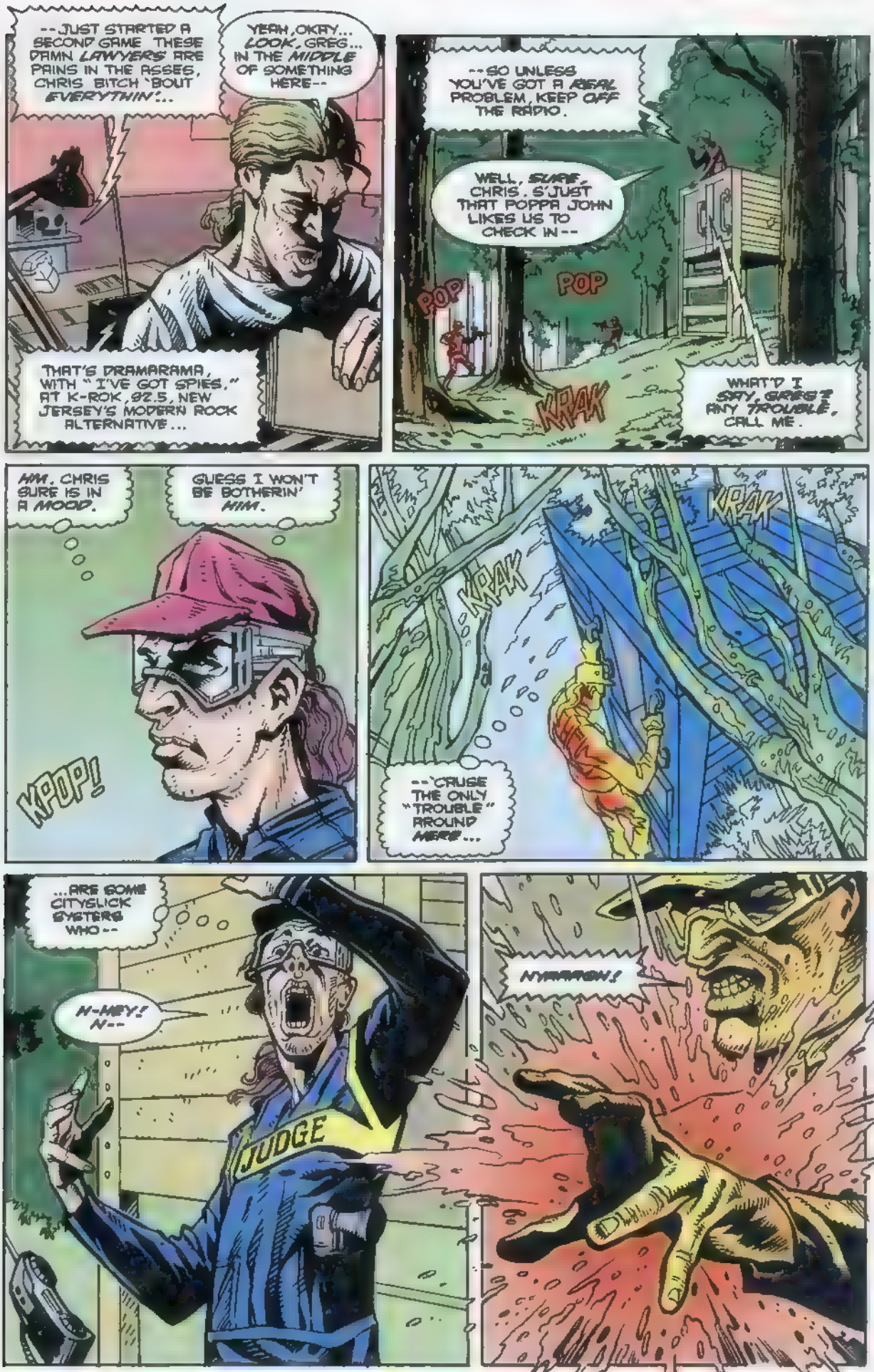
Glad to hear you enjoyed the Godzilla story. We've got more coming up, so stay tuned!

Next issue: An old Dark Horse character you haven't heard about for a while: **The Mark**, *by Mike W. Barr and Brad Rader; plus part 2 of* **The Thing from Another World: Questionable Research**, *by Edward Martin III, Ted Naifeh, and "Moose" Baumann; and the bloody conclusion of our three-part intro to* **Predator: Bad Blood**, *by Evan Dorkin, Derek Thompson, and Ande Parks. See you in thirty.*

—Randy

"GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE ... IT'S SEVEN A.M. HERE AT WKXL AND I'M CYNTHIA FUENTES WITH THE NEWS AND TRAFFIC UPDATE..."
BODY COUNT PAINTBALL GAMES
MAIN OFFICE
STAGING AREA
PARKING
CHRIS, YOU'RE SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY?
JESUS, JOHN! I'LL BE FINE! NOW GO DO WHAT YA GOTTA DO ALREADY!
IF YOU SAY SO...
THREE BODIES FOUND IN THE FREEZER OF A GAINSEVILLE, FLORIDA RESTAURANT REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED--
...BUT, I'M WARNING YOU-- YOU'LL HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL WITH THESE BIG-SHOT LAWYERS...
TWICE A YEAR THEY COME WITH THEIR CUSTOM PAINTGUNS AND DESIGNER ARMY OUTFITS... THEY THINK THEY'RE REAL BAD-ASSES--
--GREEN BERETS WITH GOLD CARDS.
HELL, YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR THE PAINT FLY OVER THE SOUND OF THEIR BEEPERS!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER RUN THE FIELD. THEY GIVE THE REFS ANY CRAP, I'LL DEAL WITH IT, GIVE ME CRAP, THEY GO BACK TO NEW YORK.
NOW WOULD YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, ALREADY?
ALRIGHT, I'M OUT OF HERE. I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.
DON'T WORRY--
--I CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS AROUND HERE.
OFFICE
BODY COUNT PAINTBALL GAMES
MAIN OFFICE
STAGING AREA
PARKING
WHOOOO! YEEEAAAH!
PREDATOR
BAD BLOOD - PART 2

IT'S RIDICULOUS, ALL THESE FULL-AUTOS! IT'S RUINING THE GAME!
BARRY'S RENTED AN AK-47.. WHERE'S THE SPORT IF YOU CAN JUST SPRAY-PAINT THE FIELD?
OH, SHUT UP, FRED -- YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T AFFORD ONE OF THESE BABIES!
--THE M134 VULCAN, DIRECT FROM JAPAN! FOUR THOUSAND ROUNDS PER MINUTE, RAN ME TWO GRAND! TELL BARRY TO TAKE HIS CAPGUN AND SHOVE IT!
OKAY, EVERYBODY! LISTEN UP!
I WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS STRAIGHT "CAPTURE THE FLAG", NO POINTS, ONE HOUR TIME LIMIT.
I'M GONNA PAINT THE DAMNED WOODS RED! JUST YOU--
JUDGE
THE REFEREES CALLS ARE TO BE FULLY OBEYED. LET'S CONDUCT A FAIR, SAFE, ACCIDENT-FREE GAME.
I'M A PERSONAL IN-JURY LAWYER! ANYONE GETS HURT, WE'LL SUE THESE GUYS BUTTS OFF!
YEAAH... O-KAAY...
ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL. THE REFS WILL ESCORT YOUR TEAMS TO THE FIELD--
"GOOD LUCK, AND GOOD HUNTING!"
YEEAAH!
HOO-HOO
WAAHOOO!


--JUST STARTED A SECOND GAME. THESE DAMN LAWYERS ARE PAINS IN THE ASSES, CHRIS. BITCH 'BOUT EVERYTHIN'...
YEAH, OKAY... LOOK, GREG... I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING HERE--
THAT'S DRAMARAMA, WITH "I'VE GOT SPIES," AT K-ROK, 92.5, NEW JERSEY'S MODERN ROCK ALTERNATIVE...
--SO UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM, KEEP OFF THE RADIO.
WELL, SURE, CHRIS. S'JUST THAT POPPA JOHN LIKES US TO CHECK IN--
POP
POP
KRAK
WHAT'D I SAY, GREG? ANY TROUBLE, CALL ME.
HM. CHRIS SURE IS IN A MOOD.
GUESS I WON'T BE BOTHERIN' HIM.
KPOP!
KRAK
KRAK
--'CAUSE THE ONLY "TROUBLE" AROUND HERE...
...ARE SOME CITYSLICK SYSTERS WHO--
N-HEY! N--
JUDGE
NYAAAAW!

YOU STUPID SON OF A... THAT HURT LIKE HELL!
HEY, MAN... SORRY. MADE A MISTAKE...
UHRRRRR
A MISTAKE?!
DO I LOOK LIKE A PLAYER?! MISTER, EITHER YOU'RE A TOTAL MORON OR YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
I OUGHTA THROW YOU OUTTA HERE!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE PAINT. WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?!
YOU CAN SEND ME THE CLEANING B--
WHA--?
POP
POP
POP
SO MUCH FOR FULL-AUTO, ARNIE! YOU'RE OUT, SUCKERS!
NO WAY! THAT'S BOGUS!
YOU'RE OUT. YOU'RE NIT. SERVES YOU RIGHT.
BULL! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
MAN, WHOEVER SAID "KILL ALL LAWYERS" WAS A DRAMED GENIUS...

YOU GIRLS CAN SIT AN' TAKE THAT, BUT NOT ME!
SCREW THAT REF AN' SCREW FRED WITH HIS CAPGUN! I'M STILL IN!!
UP YOURS, ARNIE
NOW, THERE GOES A ROYAL SHMUCK. KING OF THE SHMUCKS.
GOT THAT RIGHT HIM AND HIS DAMNED GUN. STILL CAN'T HIT THE BROADSIDE OF NEW JERSEY..
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING--
SPSSSSSS

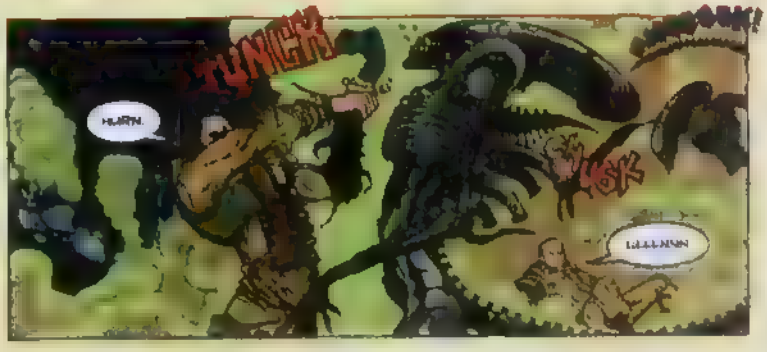
JEEEEESUS CHRIIIST!!
UH-UHHHNG--
YEEHARRCH!
HAHA! Y'HEAR THAT?! NOW THAT'S THE SOUND OF GROWN MEN HAVING A GOOD TIME!
POPPA?! P-POPPA?! CHRIS?!
GREG, MAN! WHAT'D I TELL YOU?! DON'T YOU--
OH GOD... OH GOD.. CHRIS... BLOOD... BLOOD EVERYWHERE...
CALM DOWN. WHAT'S WRONG, GREG?
GREG?!?
SHHHHPSHHH

--SOMEBODY ANSWER, ALREADY! GREG! ANDY?!
DAMN IT!
RAFF!
WROFF!
I SWEAR, IF SOMEONE GOT HURT--
OKAY... GET A GRIP... WHO WOULD DO TH--
GRRRUFF!
WOOF!
YIPE!
HUH?
...OH NO...NO...
...GREG?
THE DOGS! SOUND LIKE THEY'VE CAUGHT SOMEONE IN THAT CLEARING!
KRAK
KRKAK
GRRRRRR
GRRRRRR
HE-HELP...
NEEEEEEE---

FAPOPOPPOPOPPOPOPPOPOP
K-CIK
...NNN..
CRACKLE
SP
KRAK!
<<< IT'S JUST... A LITTLE... PAINT... >>>
<<< WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?! >>>

DARK HORSE COMICS PROJECT PROFILE

ALIENS™ LABYRINTH



Written by Jim Woodring
Illustrated by Kilian Plunkett

Aliens: Labyrinth, a four-issue limited series from Dark Horse Comics, is the product of an unlikely creative team. The writer, **Jim Woodring**, is a self-taught comics artist who lives in Seattle; he has worked in the comics industry for over twenty years. The illustrator, **Kilian Plunkett**, is a 22-year-old art school graduate of his native Ireland, and marks his comics debut with this series.

Woodring is perhaps best known for *Frank in The River* and *Tantalizing Stories* (both from Tundra Publishing) which have received seven Harvey Award nominations for Woodring and co-creator Mark Martin. Woodring's comics have also been featured in numerous anthologies, including *Pictopia*, *Hijinks*, and *The Best of the Decade*. Woodring's most personal, surrealistic work, *JIM*, was recently collected as *The Book of JIM* (Fantagraphics Books); in the preface, Woodring wrote: "I grew up believing that horror is not only fun but sacred. Horror for me was a divine emotion which accompanied the reception of oracular tidings."

Woodring's first foray into writing for comics was the adaptation of Tod Browning's classic film, *Freaks* (Monster Comics). When Dark Horse editor Ryder Windham (formerly of Monster) was assigned to develop an *Aliens* miniseries, he contacted Woodring. "The *Freaks* series was not a standard, traced-off-the-screen adaptation of the film. Jim brought his own sensibilities to the story. He paced his scripts so everything was eerily subdued, then unfolded into a disturbing, truly frightening horror comic. I knew Jim would write a fine miniseries for *Aliens*."

As the first *Alien* film could be likened to a gothic horror story in outer space, **Aliens: Labyrinth** could be read as a murder thriller. The setting is a remote space station, where a group of scientists study behavioral responses of Aliens. The experiments are carefully monitored, and every safety precaution is considered, so the crew is genuinely shocked when a technician is killed by an Alien. A doctor suspects that the death may not have been an accident, and tries to uncover the truth. The murder investigation evolves into a deceiving, sinuous nightmare. "I really wasn't sure how Jim intended to end **Labyrinth** until I read his final script," said Windham. "It surprised me, and put a knot in my stomach."

Since most of the story takes place on a space station, Windham searched for an artist who was capable with technical backgrounds as well as figures. He remembered when he first saw Plunkett's unsolicited art samples: "There were several drawings of fantastic creatures, including a Predator, but what really caught my attention was a pantomime continuity in which a well-dressed man and woman walk through a garden; another man runs into the garden, and his head seemingly spontaneously explodes. The rendering was astonishing. I offered Kilian a tryout for *Aliens* on the spot.

"In the first chapter of **Labyrinth**, the protagonist, Colonel Doctor Anthony Crespi, mentions that he had an earlier run-in with Aliens. I asked Jim if he would write *that* story for Kilian." Woodring and Plunkett produced a kinetic adventure serial, *Aliens: Backsplash*, for **Dark Horse Comics**. "It's more than a little grizzly," said Windham. "Readers will really have to brace themselves for this one."

"I've been drawing Giger's creature," said Plunkett, "since I saw the original *Alien*, which I think is the best film in the series, so it's great to get paid to do it. I hope anyone interested in goo, bizarre extraterrestrial reproductive habits, slime, and teeth will pick up **Labyrinth**."

Woodring expressed similar sentiments: "I hope that **Aliens: Labyrinth** will entertain, perplex and shock readers, and leave 'em lying in the sawdust, clawing at the ceiling, and croaking heart-breakingly for more."

Readers can get their first look at Woodring and Plunkett's collaborative effort, *Aliens: Backsplash*, in **Dark Horse Comics #12** and **13**.

Aliens: Labyrinth #1 of 4 is priced at $2.50, and ships September 21, 1993

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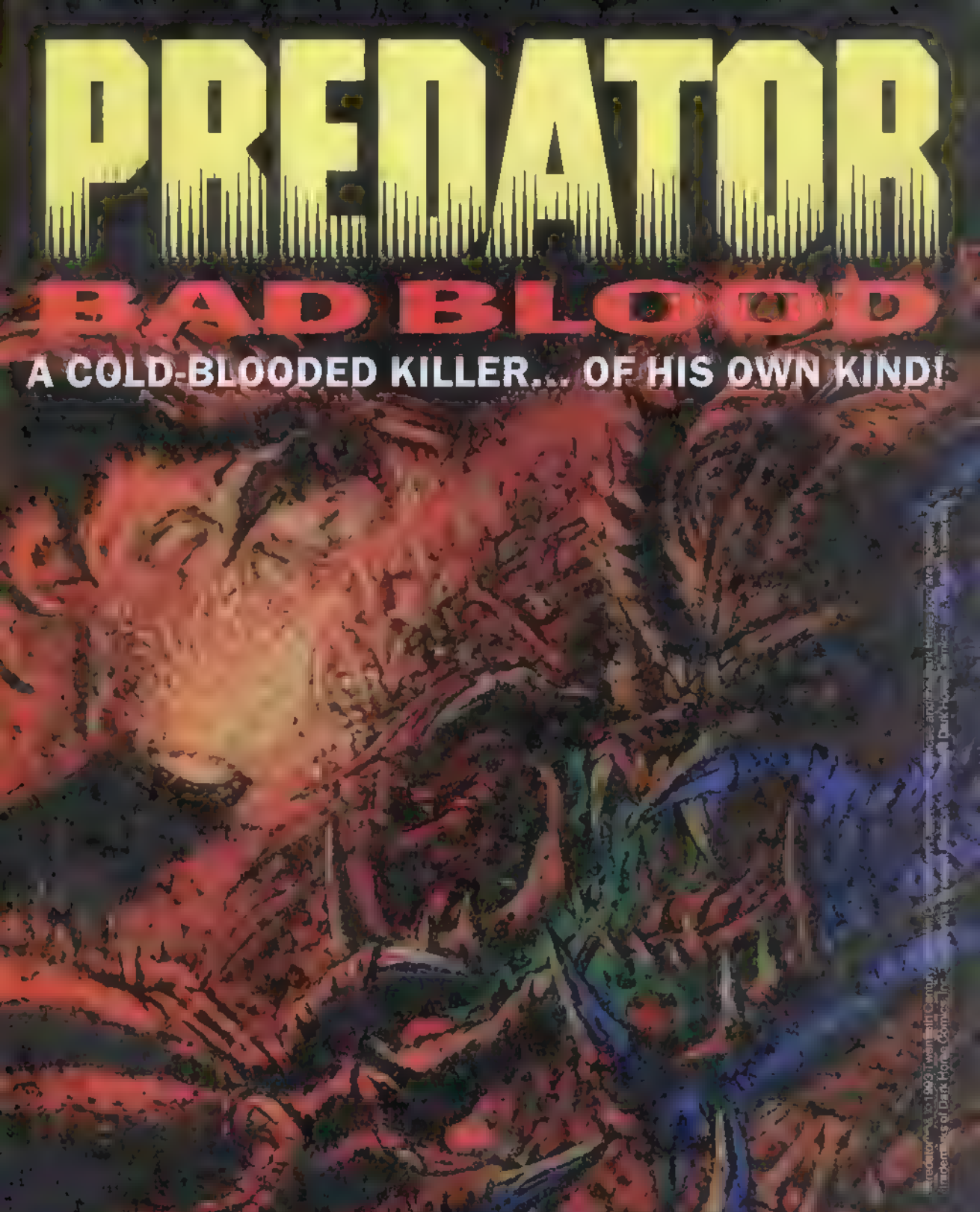

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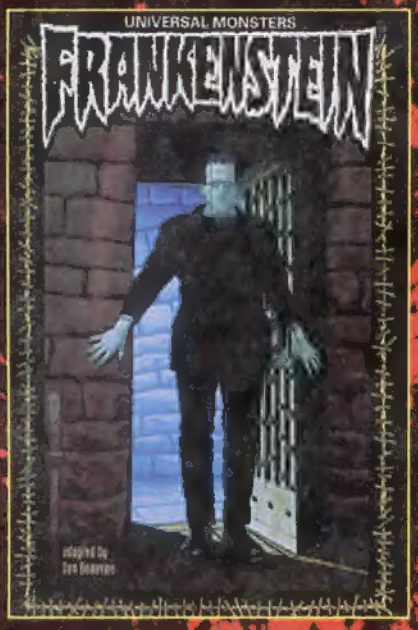

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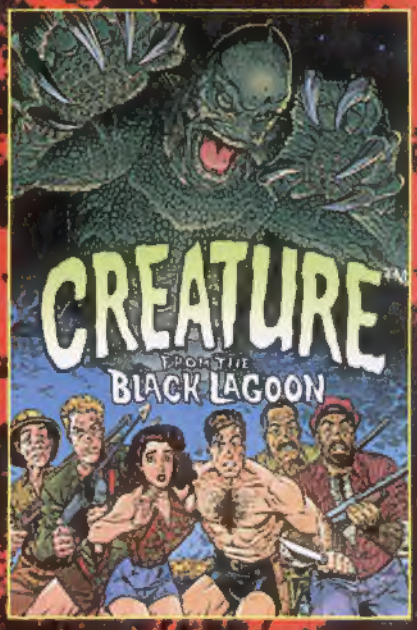

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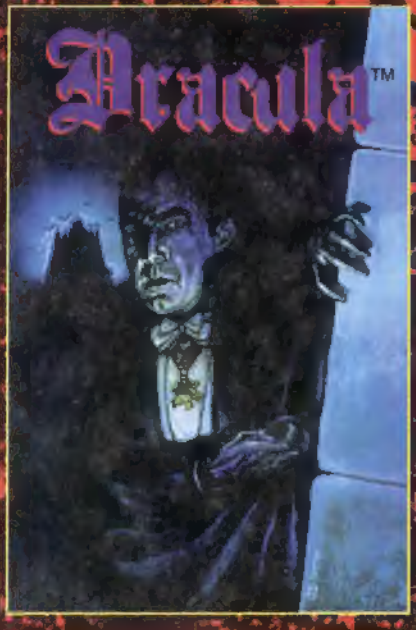

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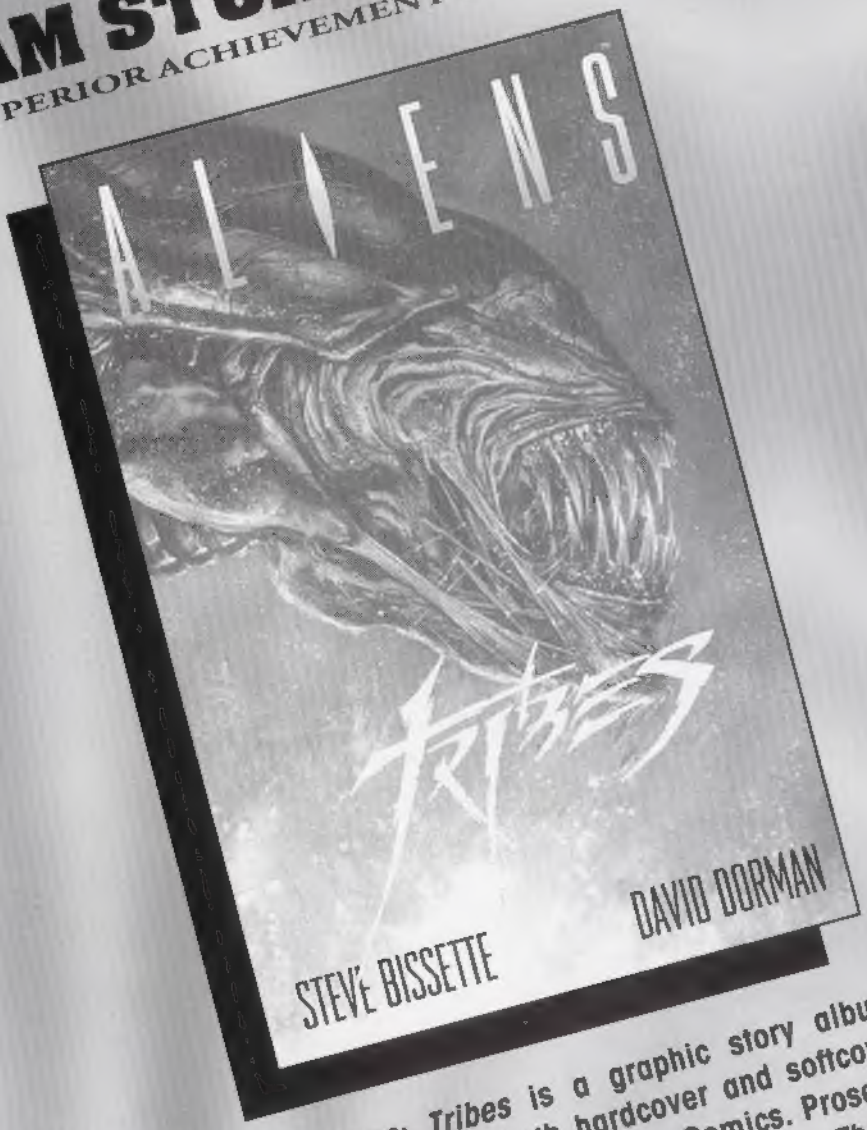

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